

BRFSS

Fact Sheet

Breast Cancer Screening



Tennessee
Department of Health

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<http://state.tn.us/health>

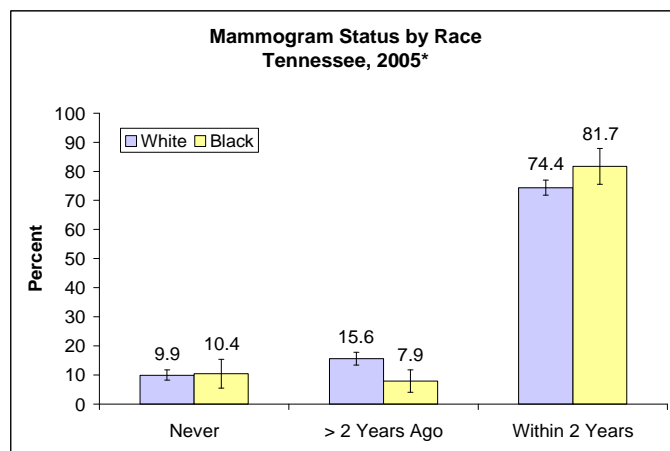
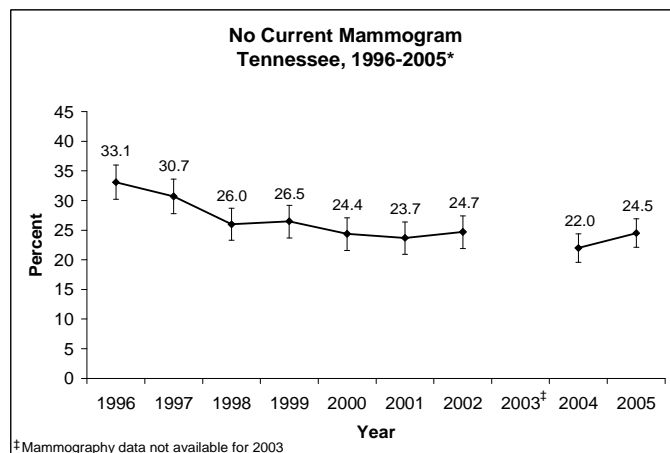
Between 1999 and 2003, breast cancer was the most common form of cancer and the second most common cause of cancer death among women in Tennessee.¹ A mammogram is an x-ray of the breast that is used as a screening tool to detect early breast cancer. Finding breast cancer early means greater treatment options and a better chance of cure and survival.² The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends screening mammography, with or without a clinical breast exam, every 1-2 years for women aged 40 and older.³ Meeting this recommendation is important for increasing the quality and years of healthy life of women in Tennessee.

- In 2005, 75.5% (± 2.4)* of Tennessee women aged 40 and older reported they had a current mammogram (i.e. within the past 2 years). 14.3% (± 1.9) reported they had had a mammogram more than 2 years ago, and 10.2% (± 1.4) reported they had never had a mammogram.
- Between 1996 and 2005, the percentage of women *without* a current mammogram (i.e. they had never had a mammogram or it had been more than 2 years since the procedure was last done) decreased from 33.1% to 24.5%.
- The percentage of women *without* a current mammogram was higher among whites (25.6% ± 2.6) than among blacks (18.3% ± 6.2).
- The percentage of women *without* a current mammogram decreased with increasing level of education, from 34.6% among women with less than a high school education to 17.4% among college graduates.
- Approximately 27-31% of women with an annual household income of less than \$50,000 did not have a current mammogram. 19.9% of women with an annual income of \$50,000-74,999 and 11.9% of those with an income of \$75,000 or more did not have a current mammogram.

References:

1. Tennessee Department of Health. *Cancer in Tennessee 1997-2003*.
2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (www.womenshealth.gov/faq/mammography.htm)
3. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstfix.htm)
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast)

Prepared by the Tennessee Department of Health; Office of Policy, Planning and Assessment; Surveillance, Epidemiology and Evaluation section based on 2005 TN Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data.

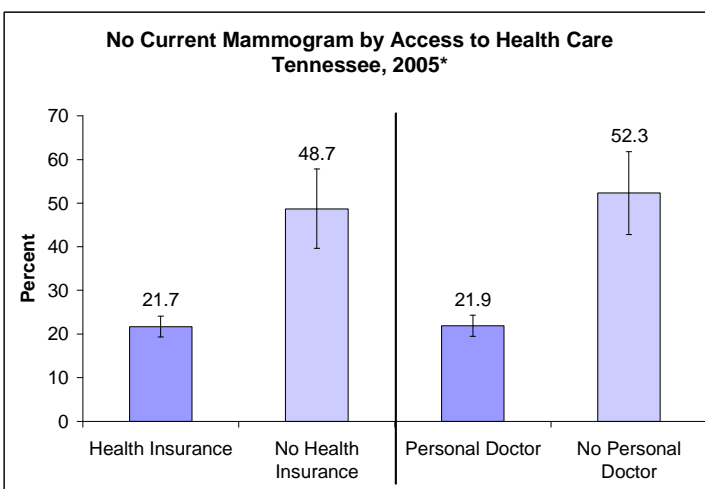
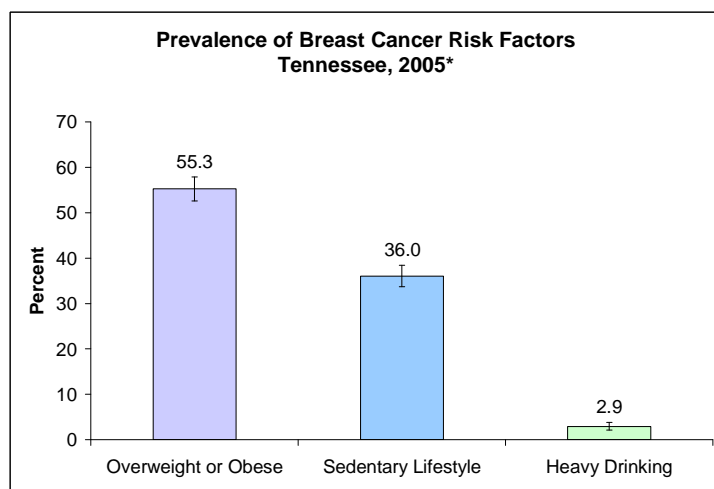
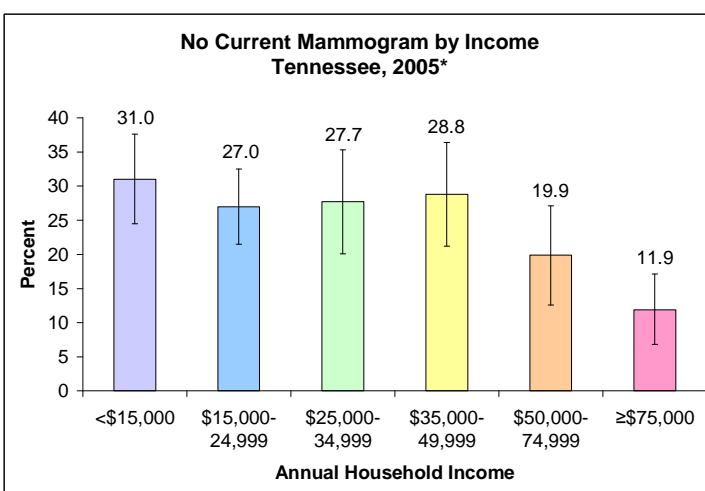
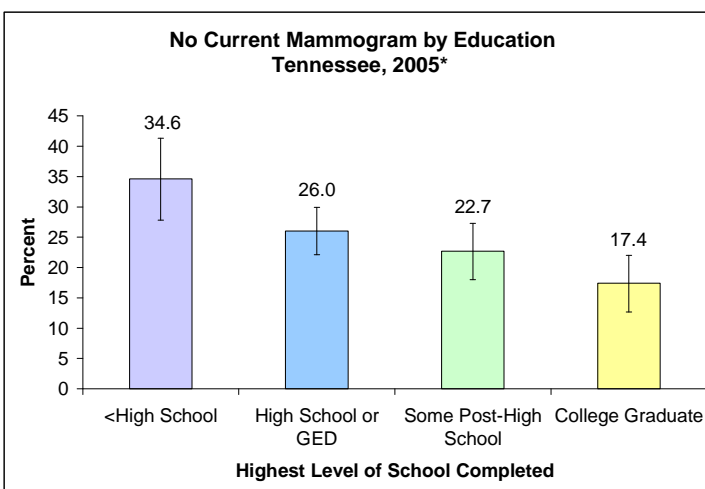


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- Women without health insurance were more than twice as likely as those with health insurance to be *without* a current mammogram (48.7% vs. 21.7%, respectively).
- Similarly, women without a personal doctor or health care provider were more likely to be *without* a current mammogram than those with such a person (52.3% vs. 21.9%, respectively).
- Modifiable risk factors for breast cancer include being overweight, lack of regular exercise and drinking more than one alcoholic drink a day.⁴ Among women aged 18 years and older, 55.3% were overweight or obese, 36.0% had a sedentary lifestyle and 2.9% reported having more than one drink a day.



*The number above each column indicates the percent value for that column. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals, as do ranges for percentages given in the text.